
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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The bulletin is being distributed early this week because of staff absences tomorrow.

Summary

- AI reports & statements
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Amnesty International reports & statements

See the following recent AI news releases [dates given in day/month/year format].

These and other links to news and reports can be found at:

<http://web.amnesty.org/news/engindex>

26/08/2004 [Peru: The Truth and Reconciliation Commission - a first step towards a country without injustice](#) AMR 46/003/2004

26/08/2004 [Saudi Arabia: Justice must be seen to be done](#) MDE 23/010/2004

25/08/2004 [Sudan: Intimidation and denial: Attacks on freedom of expression in Darfur](#) AFR 54/101/2004

23/08/2004 [Iran: Amnesty International outraged at reported execution of a 16 year old girl](#) MDE 13/036/2004

19/08/2004 [A deepening stain on US justice](#) AMR 51/130/2004

19/08/2004 [Syria: Appeal Case: Torture, ill-treatment and unfair trials of the Darya activists](#) MDE 24/056/2004

18/08/2004 [Liberia: One year after Accra - immense human rights challenges remain](#) AFR 34/012/2004

18/08/2004 [Nepal: Open letter condemning the abduction and killing of civilians and the "blockade" of Kathmandu by the Communist Party of Nepal \(Maoist\)](#)

ASA 31/157/2004

13/08/2004 [Nepal: Open Letter on "disappearances"](#) ASA 31/154/2004

Death penalty

India. A man convicted of raping and killing a schoolgirl was executed here becoming the first person hanged for their crimes in India in nearly a decade.

See Indolink.com (14 August). <http://www.indolink.com/displayArticleS.php?id=081304102908>

India. Debate on the death penalty in India has thickened after the country's Supreme Court repealed the death sentence on a rapist-murderer, days after another man was hanged to death for a similar crime (see above). *India News* 19 Aug

<http://www.123bharath.com/india-news/index.php?action=fullnews&id=9266>

India. Nata Mallick, 83, retired after carrying out India's first execution in nearly a decade, but Kolkata's veteran hangman is still in the business. He is selling strands of his final noose -- rumoured to have magical powers -- and finding both a ready market and revulsion reports the *Hindustan Times* 21 Aug

http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/7242_961241,001800080000.htm

Nigeria. Willy Mamah, a death penalty abolitionist who practices law in Abuja suggests that the days of the death penalty are numbered. 'Death Penalty Abolition And Missing Fundamentals'. *Vanguard* 24 August - see: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200408240166.html>

Female genital mutilation

Burkina Faso. Police in the west African state of Burkina Faso have arrested 14 people for carrying out genital mutilation on young girls. BBC 17 Aug

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/3574466.stm>

HIV/AIDS

South Africa. The defence force estimates the extent of HIV/Aids in its ranks at 23%, SABC news has reported. News24com 18 Aug

<http://www.sabcnews.com/politics/government/0,2172,85967,00.html>

Human Rights

Philippines. The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) called on the National Police to refrain from engaging in torture and other human rights abuses and to "act on them when there are complaints" reports ABS/CBN News. See ABS/CBN News, 19 August

<http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/NewsStory.aspx?section=Provincial&oid=57653>

Sudan - Darfur. "Can the ethnic cleansing in Sudan be stopped?" asks Samantha Power in the *New Yorker* (30 August issue)

http://newyorker.com/fact/content/?040830fa_fact1

Taiwan. A new book that recounts major human rights abuse cases in military barracks over the past decade was released yesterday with the blessings of Control Yuan members and human rights activists. ['Control Yuan' is a government watchdog.] It is reported to be the first book dealing with human rights conditions in the military ever published in Taiwan. *The China Post*. 19 August

<http://www.chinapost.com.tw/taiwan/detail.asp?ID=51669&GRP=B>

UK. Spray used by the police to control violent criminals is more damaging than thought, research shows. BBC 23 Aug

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/3584560.stm>

Zanzibar has banned gay sex and set prison terms of up to 25 years for those who break the law, officials said on Friday. *New Zealand Herald* 22 August

<http://www.nzherald.co.nz/storydisplay.cfm?storyID=3585930&thesection=news&thesubsection=world&thesecondsubsection=>

Zimbabwe has published a proposed law that would ban foreign and foreign-funded human rights groups, state media has reported. "No foreign NGO shall be registered if its sole or principal objects involve or include issues of governance," the *Herald* quoted the Bill as saying. Local groups will not be able to receive any foreign funding or donation to carry out activities involving or including issues of governance, which are defined as "the promotion and protection of human rights and political governance issues." SABC News 21 Aug
http://www.sabcnews.com/africa/southern_africa/0,2172,86215,00.html

Organ trade

Pakistan. Since a ban on the sale of organs is probably unenforceable, an interesting possibility is to place it under the control of the federal government argues Dr Syed Mansoor Hussain in the *Daily Times*, 26 August,
http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=story_25-8-2004_pg3_5

Prisoners

Iraq/USA - Abu Ghraib abuses. Physicians for Human Rights says that the Schlesinger Panel report on abuses in Abu Ghraib prison, Baghdad, falls far short of establishing accountability and addressing systemic problems with US interrogation and detention policy . See:
<http://www.phrusa.org/research/torture/release08242004.html> (24 August).

Israel. Physicians for Human Rights-Israel calls upon government ministers Hanegbi and Naveh and prisons commissioner Ganot to retract their statements regarding the prisoners on hunger strike, to observe medical ethics and international conventions while treating the prisoners' strike and to seriously regard their demands reports Arabic Media Internet Network - 22 Aug
<http://www.amin.org/eng/uncat/2004/aug/aug22.html>

Pakistan. Thousands of people demonstrated across the country after Friday prayers against the death of a cleric in detention over suspected links to al-Qaeda and against raids on seminaries. A leading human rights group too voiced concern at the death of Qari Noor Muhammad, who died in police custody in Faisalabad. HiPakistan 21 Aug
http://www.hipakistan.com/en/detail.php?newsId=en70973&F_catID=&f_type=source

Refugees

Burundi : Dozens of attackers raided a U.N. refugee camp in western Burundi, shooting and hacking to death at least 180 people, witnesses and local officials said the London *Guardian*, 14 August
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/worldlatest/story/0,1280,-4421107,00.html>

Right to health

India. Developing world "brain drain". Since 1951, India has subsidised other countries, particularly the wealthy north, by up to \$5bn in investment in training of doctors according to a BMJ article. See: <http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/329/7463/419-a> (reporting on the article by Martineau and colleagues - see under Publications below). See also the report by PHR: An Action Plan to Prevent Brain Drain: Building Equitable Health Systems in Africa. The report is available at: <http://www.phrusa.org/campaigns/aids/pdf/braindrain.pdf> . The press release is available at: <http://www.phrusa.org/campaigns/aids/bangkok/release07152004.html>

Malawi is facing a health crisis as trained nurses leave to seek better wages abroad. More than half come to Britain to work for the NHS and private hospitals. BBC 23 Aug
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/3590764.stm>

UK. An asylum seeker who fled her war-ravaged African homeland in fear of her life has found herself at the centre of a battle for health care in the UK. BBC 23 Aug
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/3582322.stm>

USA. A Special Investigations Division report reveals that nearly 2,000 youth are incarcerated each day because community mental health services are unavailable. In 33 states, youths are locked up in detention facilities to wait for treatment even though no charges have been filed against them. *Psychiatric News* August 20, 2004
<http://pn.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/content/full/39/16/1-a> The report itself is available at:
http://www.house.gov/reform/min/pdfs_108_2/pdfs_inves/pdf_health_mental_health_youth_in_carceration_july_2004_rep.pdf

Torture

South Africa. The practice of muti provides a disconcerting counterpoint to the contemporary image of the new South Africa. Dr Gerard Lubschagne, who heads the investigative psychology unit of the South African police service, conservatively estimates lives lost to ritual murders at between 50 to 300 every year reports the *Independent* 21 Aug
<http://news.independent.co.uk/world/africa/story.jsp?story=553679>

South Africa. A man has won legal damages from the government after he was electrocuted by police four years ago, his lawyers said. Experts say there is no proof that the torture is widespread, but it continues to be carried out by apartheid-era units who have remained active despite democratic elections in 1994 and as police fight extremely high levels of violent crime. *Reuters* 18 Aug
<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L18227669.htm>

Uganda. The Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) is investigating the District Police Commander and other subordinate police officers for allegedly torturing suspects. *Monitor*, Kampala 18 Aug
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200408180481.html>

UK. As the full implications of the recent court ruling on foreign terrorist suspects held in England start to sink in, questions are being asked about what it means for evidence obtained through torture. BBC 17 August
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/3563114.stm>

USA. A Pew study found that 43% feel the use of torture is sometimes justified and another 21% say it is rarely justified. *USA Today* 19 Aug
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politicselections/nation/president/2004-08-19-poll-national-security_x.htm

Violence against women

UK. More than 8,000 women are working as prostitutes in brothels, saunas and massage parlours in London, a report released today estimates. Three quarters of them are foreign, with many smuggled into the country from eastern Europe and Asia as sex slaves. *Guardian* 19 Aug
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/crime/article/0,2763,1286686,00.html>

Conferences

Cultural and historical perspectives on nursing and ethics : listening to each other. Workshop Conference Taipei, Taiwan 19 May 2005 Organised by *Nursing Ethics* (an international journal for healthcare professionals) and ICNE (the International Centre for Nursing Ethics), University of Surrey, Guildford, UK. Please register your interest by e-mail to vtschudin@fastnet.co.uk

Vacancies

Global Health Electives Co-ordinator post, University College London

The International Health and Medical Education Centre (IHMEC) is looking for an enthusiastic co-ordinator for its International Health Electives programme. The chosen candidate will be excited about working in international health, currently one of the major growth areas of the medical curriculum, and will preferably have spent some time working in a developing country. IHMEC currently runs International Health electives in several countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America and is looking to expand the number of participants in this programme. For further information contact Chris Willotts at IHMEC, tel: +44 20 7288 5347, ihmec@ucl.ac.uk. For an application pack, contact Jacky Matheson, IHMEC, UCL Archway Campus, 2-10 Highgate Hill, London N19 5LW; tel: 020 7288 3169 or email: j.matheson@ucl.ac.uk. See also: <http://www.ihmec.ucl.ac.uk/electivescoordinator.htm>

Secretary General World Medical Association

The position for a new Secretary General for the World Medical Association (WMA) will become vacant at the end of 2004. The Secretariat is based in Ferney-Voltaire, France, adjacent to Geneva. For details see:

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=12123>

Applications, including a short covering letter, should be sent to Keith Bushnell, The Executive Partnership, Mercuri Urval (Agy), Spencer House, 29 Grove Hill Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 3BN, England, or email to: response.harrow.uk@mercuriurval.com quoting reference: E/17385/KB.

Publications

Fleck F. Pre-election insecurity in Afghanistan hampers health service delivery. *BMJ* 2004;329:420 (21 August)

<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/329/7463/420>

Hubner ME, Ditzler TF. Humanitarian military medical mission in a postconflict environment: lessons from Cambodia. *Public Health* 2004 Sep;118(6):421-5.

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15313595

Lehmann C. APA among groups fighting execution of juvenile offenders. *Psychiatric News* August 20, 2004 <http://pn.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/content/full/39/16/15-a>

Martineau T, Decker K, Bundred P. "Brain drain" of health professionals: from rhetoric to responsible action. *Health Policy* 2004 Oct;70(1):1-10.

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&list_uids=15312705&dopt=Abstract

Miles SH. Abu Ghraib: its legacy for military medicine. *Lancet* Vol 364, No 9435 21 August 2004

http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol364/iss9435/full/llan.364.9435.review_and_opinion.30574
.1 See also the Lancet editorial:

http://www.thelancet.com/journal/vol364/iss9435/full/lan.364.9435.analysis_and_interpretation.30569.1; and comment from the Boston Globe (24 August):

http://www.boston.com/news/globe/editorial_opinion/editorials/articles/2004/08/24/silence_of_the_doctors/

Teixeira PR, Vitoria MA, Barcarolo J. Antiretroviral treatment in resource-poor settings: the Brazilian experience. *AIDS* 2004 Jun;18 Suppl 3:S5-7.

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15322477

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